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**A TERRIBLE MISTAKE**

On November 5, 1959, General C. P. Cabell, Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, was testifying before a U.S. Senate Subcommittee on the question of Cuba. Here is a brief excerpt from the record of General Cabell's remarks.

"The Chairman (Senator Eastland of Mississippi): What caused Batista to fall? Just what happened?

General Cabell: Well, Mr. Chairman, he did not have a sound base for his regime.

"The Chairman: Was his army whipped in the field? Was he deposed by his Generals?

General Cabell: The army disintegrated. Its morale just completely disintegrated in the face of the growing numbers in the Castro movement. It became helpless.

Now let us add to this brief description of the social and military factors in the success of the Cuban Revolution some recent news gathered by reporter Howard Norton of the Baltimore Sun.

Last week Mr. Norton reported from Miami that agreement had been reached at a series of meetings of Cuban exile leaders in Washington on the formation of a coalition government of anti-Castro groups. The government-in-exile would be officially announced from somewhere in Cuba within ten days, Mr. Norton said.

Sunday, while Mr. Norton was checking Cuban exile activity in the Florida Keys, the Associated Press sent a report of a meeting of about 300 Cubans in a Miami hall. The AP quoted a Miami police officer as saying that the meeting was called to cement agreement on a provisional anti-Castro government. But agreement was not reached. The meeting erupted into a brawl that spilled into the street and resulted in the arrest of seven persons on several charges.

It would seem that the disintegrative process which General Cabell reported as affecting the Batista army is still a factor in the Cuban situation. But more important to the people of this country, perhaps, are other things that Mr. Norton reported. We quote:

"The word here is that the warring (anti-Castro) factions were pressured into getting together by an agency of the U.S. government. The pressure, it is stated, took the form of a threat to withdraw financial support from all the groups. According to one apparently reliable source here, the Cuban groups have been getting about \$400,000 a month, presumably from the same agency.

"This source also says that certain U.S. government officials are taking part in the Washington meeting. That, according to this source, is the only reason for holding the session in Washington." Mr. Norton also listed the program of the anti-Castro elements: Repeal of the Castro regime land reform; return of city banks to former owners, whether Cuban or foreign; return of public utilities to private owners.

Well, all we can say about this is that if an agency of the U.S. government is really promoting or encouraging such groups and such a program, it ought to have its head examined. Especially if it

is the C.I.A., whose General Cabell testified so forcefully in 1959.

We would not predict that any effort to resaddle the great majority of the Cuban people with the monopolies, the privileged landowners and the political tyrants who brought the revolution on themselves, would fail. But it would surely fail unless major U.S. military support was provided. And that, in our opinion, would be a terrible mistake, terrible for Cuba, terrible for us.